

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

August 6, 2018

Administrator William B. "Brock" Long Office of the Administrator The Federal Emergency Management Agency 500 C St. SW Washington, DC 20024

Mr. Long:

I am writing about the recent disclosures about Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s former director of human resources, Corey Coleman. The reports are appalling and obviously of great concern.

Corey Coleman has been accused of trading sex for jobs at the agency and hiring friends and college fraternity brothers and women he met at bars and online dating websites, ignoring proper federal hiring channels. Many of these unqualified candidates are still working for the agency today. Coleman reportedly would pressure his female subordinates and demote them when they denied his advances. He reportedly intimidated staff and created a toxic work environment.

Although Coleman resigned in the wake of these discoveries, this incident speaks to a larger problem with the agency. The first reported incident with Coleman came in 2015, yet, he was promoted and allegations were considered "too vague" to investigate. This incident should have you review your sexual harassment policies, including reporting, investigating, and disciplining.

The agency also needs to undergo an audit of all the employees that Coleman hired to insure there are not other problems that he created from his behavior.

Thank you for taking this matter seriously. While I applaud your expansion of counseling services, there is still so much work you can do to eliminate predators from your agency. I would appreciate an outline of how the agency plans to strengthen their policies and correct the problems and injustices that Coleman created while in a senior position with FEMA.

Sincerely,

Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress